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Thursday, September 6, 2012

THE MORNING NEWS

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No tsunami warnings or watches valid for Aruba

WAYACA -- A MAGNITUDE 7.9 EARTHQUAKE STRUCK NEAR SAMARA, COSTA RICA AT 8:42 A.M. LOCAL TIME.

THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER INITIALLY ISSUED A CARIBBEAN-WIDE TSUNAMI WATCH BUT THEN WITHDREW IT, SAYING IT WAS SENT BY MISTAKE.

THE TSUNAMI WARNING IS FOR THE PACIFIC COASTS OF COSTA RICA, PANAMA AND NICARAGUA, THE CENTER SAID.

Huge quake jolts Costa Rica, two killed

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AFP) - A powerful 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck Costa Rica's Pacific coast yesterday, killing two people, briefly knocking out power and phone lines, and triggering tsunami warnings, authorities said.

Residents reported trees toppled, rooftops damaged and roads split by the quake near the epicenter in the coastal province of Guanacaste. People rushed into the streets 150 kilometers (95 miles) away in the capital San Jose.

A Red Cross spokesman said a man and a woman died

after suffering heart attacks in the town of Filadelfia, not far from Nicoya, which is roughly 10 kilometers (six miles) from the epicenter.

"Here in Nicoya, fortunately we have only seen very minor injuries, people with minor cuts -- nothing significant given the magnitude of the storm," said the spokesman, Adolfo Saenz.

Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla said: "The most important thing is to remain calm, there is no major damage."

Continued on page 6

Prosecutor's Office announces results of February shooting incident in Oranjestad

On Tuesday afternoon, September 4, Chief Prosecutor Peter Blanken made an official statement regarding the outcome of an unusual encounter between police and three alleged drug dealers, taking place on February 22 of this year.

Aruban police were working cooperatively with the U.S. DEA to apprehend three Colombian citizens on Aruba, believed to be trafficking in large quantities of illegal substances. According to police reports, one of the suspects was on the island illegally. Aruban police were approached by the DEA and requested to assist in an operation to apprehend them in the act.

A U.S. DEA agent was working undercover as a buyer, meeting with one of the dealers in a restaurant at the Renaissance Marketplace to negotiate a deal. After coming to an agreement, the suspect then phoned his two cohorts, who were driving around the area with the product in their car.

Prosecutor Blanken explained that once arrangements were made for an exchange and the vehicle pinpointed, it was stopped and surrounded by an Aruban SWAT team, guns drawn, which ordered the two suspects to exit the car. This took place in the traffic lane passing around the shopping center, on the Wilhelmina Park side.

The suspects refused to exit the vehicle. Three of the arresting team involved in the operation had surrounded the car. According to the officers' report, one of them opened a door to extract the driver and passenger. During this process, his motion caused him to accidentally discharge his weapon. No one was hurt by the shot; the bullet went into the rubber



Chief Prosecutor Peter Blanken

bumper of the back door. This action, however, caused the other two officers in the arresting team to perceive they were being fired upon by the suspects. They responded by opening fire and the two individuals in the car were killed.

Tuesday's announcement comes as a result of a long and complete analysis of the incident by the Prosecutor's Office, both Aruban and Dutch investigative teams, and the official police forensics squad. Prosecutor Blanken explained that their findings confirm the report of the arresting team. An extensive and high quality video security system main-

tained by the shopping mall recorded the entire incident. He acknowledged it was extremely helpful in bringing the investigation to a close.

The final conclusion of the Prosecutor's Office regarding the actions of the arresting team, was to exonerate them of blame in the shooting incident. Evidence confirms the original discharge of the officer's weapon was accidental and since no one was hurt, he was cleared of any charges.

The Prosecutor's Office expressed that the other two officers followed criteria for such a situation, and since they had adequate reason to believe they were in mortal danger, they were legitimately defending themselves from a threat.

The official statement of police and the Prosecutor's Office expressed their regrets at the lamentable outcome of the operation, but do not consider it actionable against the arresting officers. A search of the car uncovered 12 kilos of cocaine. The third alleged perpetrator, W.G.H.-A, is in custody awaiting extradition to the United States for prosecution. The suspect is contesting the extradition, a process that can take up to a year.

by Rosalie Klein

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Fifth successful Chamber Commercial Mission held here



The Aruba Chamber of Commerce (KvK) received their fifth economic mission. This last economic mission was from Colombia. This particular economic mission, headed by the Chamber of Commerce Colombo Centroamericana y Del Caribe (Camara CCCC), visited Aruba from Wednesday August 22nd to Friday, August 24th, 2012.

The primary objective of this mission was to establish and maintain the commercial ties that Aruba has with Colombia. Colombia is one of the focus countries for international commerce with Aruba. Colombia is the fifth most important country from whence Aruba imported many products in 2010 and 2011. A group of 7 Colombian compa-



nies visited Aruba during the two days to explore new opportunities for business with our island. These companies offered, among others, construction material, furniture, food, fresh and preserved flowers, durable plastic bags

and plastic vases. Various local companies met with the Colombian entrepreneurs to explore new opportunities.

In addition to the match-making meetings at the Chamber of Commerce, the Colombian entrepreneurs also visited several local companies on Aruba. There is an apparent growth in interest for doing business with Colombia by our local companies for which the Colombians are very pleased.

In an effort to provide the

Colombians with an ample view of the possibilities that Aruba can offer, the Chamber organized a special information session concerning investing in Aruba. Different organizations, such as, the Aruba Investment Agency (ARINA), Aruba Trade & Industry Association (ATIA), Department of Economic Affairs and the Aruba Free Zone, made presentations on how they could help international entrepreneurs do business with Aruba, or use Aruba as a hub to export their products or services to the Caribbean region and to Europe.

The Aruba Chamber of Commerce considered the mission a success despite its small size. Many local companies considered it a successful encounter from which several benefited greatly.

The Word is out Valero is not reopening and DPL and DAO stands ready to help



ORANJESTAD -- The government, without being specific, has indicated that in view of the situation presented by Valero, similar to what took place last March when they suspended operations of the refinery, that the Department for Labor Progression (DPL) and the Department of Labor (DAO), stands ready to help those who get laid off. DPL and DAO have initiated conversations with the refinery and contractors who were working in the refinery.

After taking an inventory of all employees who are/were employed in the refinery, they have initiated a process with a special unite at the DPL to attend to this group of persons and to intermediate in finding suitable job functions for them in the community.

Together with the Valero Department of Human Resources they will ascertain which employees will remain to continue with the transshipment operations of the refinery. Notwithstanding that such an exercise is always exclusively the prerogative of the employer (Valero) and not of the government; it appears that the government will help decide who stays and who does not stay with Valero!

Re-locating employees

with specific skills such as those employed at Valero, is going to be a big feat! Apparently, the government is going to approach various utility companies of the government to see if there are any vacancies to help place these employees who have or will lose their jobs at the Valero Aruba Refinery.

The government intends to use the social dialogue and the private sector to make the transition from Valero jobs to other jobs less painful for these employees. No matter what one does, losing a job remains a very painful experience and a blow that cannot be softened!



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Santa Rosa unites with Carubbian Festival offering local products!



SAN NICOLAS -- On September 6 and 27, Santa Rosa is heading to San Nicolas to participate in the popular weekly Carubbian Festival. Santa Rosa is taking with them their local produce directly to the consumer and in this fashion also contributing to the economy of San Nicolas.

During the Carubbian Festival, Santa Rosa will have their stands replete with local food such as fresh fish and



grilled "carni cabrito," and many different soups as well as their famous lionfish soup. Many sorts of sweets for the sweet tooth, such as chuculati di pinda, raspao, gingersiroop, local honey and a large assortment of cakes, will be on display for sale. You will also find nature remedies, pica in coconut, Sour sap shakes, tamarind, papaya and noni.

They have planned a special stand for vegetarians with an assortment of snacks and fruits. Fruit trees will also be plentiful. Along with the

Santa Marta mini market, visitors will also be able to enjoy the carnival atmosphere of the Carubbian Festival with local musical bands like the Sailors, Tipico Ola Tropical and the popular Bonaire band - Glen and Gang di Bonaire.

The entire Aruban community is cordially invited to come out and enjoy the music, colorful costume dances and fun, food and fellowship, and the Santa Rosa Market on September 6th and 27th from 6:00 pm in the afternoon to 10:00 pm in San Nicolas!

Unique opportunity: Blow glass on Aruba!



NOORD -- Terrafuse Foundation has been launched in 2008 and since then has been stimulating the art of glass and ceramics on the island of Aruba through demonstrations, workshops, presentations and by making products. This year the foundation is introducing a new

workshop: Glass Blowing for Beginners. This is not done behind the torch, like the Workshop Glass Bead Making that is also taught by Terrafuse, but it is done through the use of a large tube, which picks up hot glass from a kiln.

Continued on page 5



La Vista

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SETAR N.V. upgrading its Cable Digital

Asks subscribers to leave their boxes ON during the night



SETAR N.V. informs all its subscribers that it is performing upgrading work on the electronic guide system of the Digital Cable during the month of September. The upgrading work will last until September 24 and will be done in different neighborhoods of Aruba. This is why the telecommunication company kindly asks all its subscribers to leave their cable boxes on during the night. The upgrading will last between 45 minutes and 2 hours, depending on the type of box.

The following neighbor-

hoods on schedule for upgrading are Brazil, Savaneta, Pos Chikito and Sabana Basora; the upgrading work starts today at midnight.

SETAR informs that there will be no noticeable changes, but still ask clients to switch the box ON/OFF the following day so the system can upgrade itself successfully. Clients with Digital Video Recorder (DVR) who encounter any problem with their boxes after the upgrading can call at 525-1700 for SETAR to initialize or refresh the box.



Tony A.D. Green

www.people-self-development.com

Six Bad Family Habits You Need to Change – Part II

A few days ago you read the article I wrote on the bad family habits we must let go if we are to have healthy, happy families. In that article, I itemized three of the six bad habits I am convinced we must stop. Do you remember what these habits were? Well, for starters we must stop: 1. Complaining, 2. Crowded Schedules, and 3. Chaos in the House!

Today I want to spell out the remaining three bad habits. If we let these go, we will be on the way to a happy and healthy family. As you know habits are not very easy to break once they are formed. So, it goes without saying that breaking many of these habits will not be easy, they will require a great deal of work, determination and stick-to-it-iveness. But, I guarantee, that whoever takes these matters seriously and really want to create an atmosphere of peace, love and genuine happiness in the family, will do whatever it takes to break these bad habits. The first of the remaining three bad habits to break are:

4. Calling out loud –Yelling:

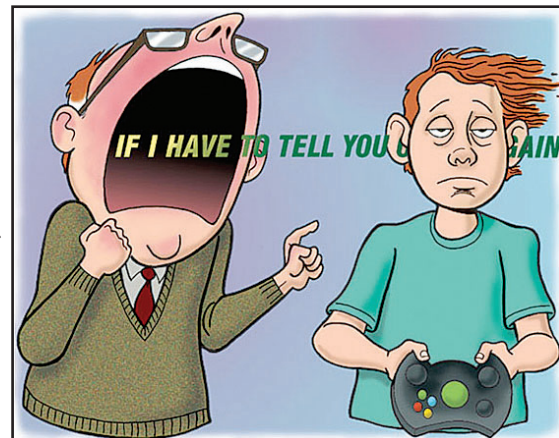
Calling out loud is just another word for yelling. And there are those who seem to consider calling out loud, or yelling, something very common in a family. So many families have one or more persons who yell all the time at each other in the family. Some mothers somehow think that yelling is the only way to get children's attention or to get things done around the house. But yelling is the very worst form of communication there is. Yelling is a symptom of a much deeper personal problem of the one doing the yelling, and a symptom of a problem within the family where the yelling takes place. The person who is constantly yelling unknowingly is crying out for help for themselves, and the family who gets yelled at is in need of serious help as well. Yelling is a sign of disrespect, powerlessness and poor communication. It is also conta-

gious; you find that people begin to shout back at you.

What you need to work on immediately is to stop the yelling, and start listening, stop it now and see what happens, and then consider getting help from a good counselor.

5. Closing down:

By closing down, I mean shutting people out and going off to do your own thing. When you close down and shut people out, this causes the family to disintegrate. It creates little individual isolated members within the family structure. Everybody becomes a little island unto themselves. Instead, family members should use their free



time to spend together. What do we see in so many 'good' families today, each goes off into their private own room to watch their own TV, or to play with their own Electronic Gadget, or 'work' on their own computer! Personal time is good and healthy, but family time is also very essential. If you want a healthy, happy home, begin spending time with each other. Get together for dessert, ice cream, play some game together, watch a movie together, walk the dog together. Do this at least once or twice a week and you will thank me for the advice when next we meet, I guarantee it! Something we do as the Green's family very frequently, is we just sit around the dinner table, or on the bed and just talk, and talk. It keeps us close as a family. This physical proximity will build an emotional closeness which is necessary for the healthy development of children and families. So, break the bad habit of closing down!

6. Criticizing each other:

You'd be flabbergasted to know how prevalent this issue is in homes today! So many homes are infested with criticism. Children get criticized for the way they wear their clothes or do their hair or wear their sneakers, or carry their bag, etc. Mothers get criticized for wearing that dress, or their hairstyle, or for the food they cooked or didn't cook. Fathers get criticized for the way they drive the car or took that turn, or for not seeing the cat crossing the road, or for the way they looked at the woman across the street, or for not being there when Jimmy stumbled and fell, or for you-name-it!

Anyone who lives in an atmosphere of constant or even sporadic criticism will be seriously affected emotionally. Children who live with constant criticism are affected emotionally and developmentally. Decide today, to just stop the criticism, drop the bad habit today!

The moment you start praising instead of criticizing, everything changes, I guarantee it! A brand new world of happiness and health opens up to the family where there is no criticism, but praise instead! And, you know, there is ALWAYS something to praise around the house, always, always! Start praising and stop the bad habit of criticizing and see your world, your family, YOU change!

If this was helpful, please let me know at: tonygreen.morningnews@hotmail.com. Praise, don't criticize me, smile! P.S.: did you catch the alliteration – all "C's"?



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Caribbean Festival is tonight!



SAN NICOLAS -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolas to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Caribbean Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival, from 6:00 to 9:15 p.m., revels in the diverse background of San Nicolas, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

A full roster of some of Aruba's finest criollo entertainers follows including folkloric musical groups, dance groups solo singers, limbo dance by "Miguel Philips" and Carnival show by "Carna-Aruba," and this is only on the main stage!

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolas are performance areas surround by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner, including music by steel pan and Brass band."

Island visitors can enjoy the Caribbean festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize your evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.

Unique opportunity: Blow glass on Aruba!

Continued from page 2

Color is added by melting in colorful glass frits to create unique and colorful designs on a small vase, paperweight or Christmas ornament. The first workshop will be given in November and taught by local glass artists Ciro and Marian Abath together with Miguel Unson from the US. The 2-day workshop is given in small groups of maximum 4 students. Please note that teamwork is required, as glass blowing is not an activity to

be done individually. Participants need to work together in order to produce beautiful glass creations.

Terrafuse Foundation receives yearly many visitors and participants through its workshops. Twice a week (every Tuesday and Thursday) a workshop is offered on glass bead making behind the torch. Participants are both locals and tourists, and many of them return for advanced workshops.

The program for the coming months is:

- **Workshop Glass Bead Making for beginners:** every Tuesday 3-6pm and Thursday 9am-12pm (\$85)
- **Tour of the glass studio,** every Tuesday 3-6pm and Thursday 9am-12pm (free)
- **Local youth project in cooperation with UNOCA,** starts Tuesday September 4

- **Workshop Little Glass Animals behind the torch:** October 2

- **Workshop Glass Blowing for Beginners:** NEW, November 23 and 24

- **Demo glass blowing Christmas ornaments:** December 2, 3-6 pm

For a full schedule or more information e-mail Marian at arubaglassceramics@gmail.com or call 5922978

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US forecasters: Leslie becomes a hurricane in Atlantic

MIAMI (AFP) - US forecasters warned yesterday that former tropical storm Leslie had swollen to become hurricane, the sixth of the Atlantic season.

The National Hurricane Center said the storm, currently about 465 miles (750 kilometers) southeast of Bermuda, had "strengthened into a hurricane" with sustained winds of 75 miles (120 kilometers) per hour.

The British island territory

of Bermuda, home to around 70,000 people, lay square in the middle of the storm's projected path, but otherwise it was expected to remain well clear of the US mainland.

The last hurricane, Isaac, battered Haiti and Cuba and drenched the southern US state of Louisiana last week, leaving more than 20 dead in its wake, seven years after New Orleans was devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Lawyer: US preparing case against WikiLeaks's Assange

MADRID (AFP) - US prosecutors are secretly preparing a case against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange for publishing a cache of sensitive diplomatic cables, his lawyer Baltazar Garzon said yesterday.

The 41-year-old Australian has been holed up in Ecuador's embassy in London since June after losing a legal battle to avoid extradition to Sweden to face questioning over rape and sexual assault claims.

He fears that if sent to Sweden, he will be re-extradited to the United States to stand trial for spying for publishing the leaked US diplomatic cables that embarrassed governments around the world.

Spain's Garzon, known for once pursuing Chile's former dictator Augusto Pinochet, said he was convinced that a "secret grand jury" in the United States had launched an investigation into Assange and WikiLeaks.

He said he based this belief on statements made by people who have testified in the probe of US Army Private Bradley Manning for passing the trove of classified documents to WikiLeaks.

"The procedure against Assange exists. We are going to ask US authorities to tell us if they have launched a procedure against WikiLeaks that affects Julian Assange," Garzon told a meeting with foreign journalists in Madrid.

"I can already tell you that they will not respond. It is true that there are no formal charges in the United States against Julian Assange but from my experience charges can be laid in just 24 hours."

Garzon said Assange is not against going to Sweden to be questioned in the rape and sexual assault case but wants guarantees that he will not be extradited to the United States.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Huge quake jolts Costa Rica . . .

Continued from page 1

The US Geological Survey initially said the quake, which struck off the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, measured 7.9 on the Moment Magnitude Scale, but revised both the intensity and location in a subsequent advisory.

In its latest advisory, the USGS said the quake measured 7.6 and struck at a depth of about 40 kilometers.

A tsunami warning was issued for Costa Rica, Panama and Nicaragua, but later cancelled, the US Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said. Initially, the warning had extended from Mexico to Peru.

"We felt it very strongly, and ran, afraid that the house was going to come down. People are very alarmed," a Nicoya resident told a local radio station.

A USGS map showed the quake centered near the Pacific coast, in picturesque Guanacaste, a tourist area popular for its cliffs, beaches and surfing.

The country is used to seismic activity but people in the area were stunned by the strength of the quake.

Italy's Berlusconi quizzed as witness in mafia case

ROME (AFP) - An Italian court questioned former premier Silvio Berlusconi for three hours yesterday as a witness in a case dating to the 1970s when he was allegedly blackmailed by the mafia, media reports said.

The Rome hearing was part of the so-called Dell'Utri affair, named after one of Berlusconi's close aides who was sentenced to seven years in prison in 2010 for collusion with organised crime figures.

In March, Italy's highest appeal court had overturned the conviction of senator Marcello Dell'Utri for association with the mafia, ordering a new trial.

Dell'Utri, from Palermo, Sicily, was sentenced in 2004 to nine years' imprisonment over links to leaders of Sicily's Cosa Nostra crime group.

The Palermo court of appeal upheld the conviction in June 2010 but reduced the sentence to seven years. It also said Dell'Utri was a contact point between Berlusconi and the Cosa Nostra.

The senator had allowed the Cosa Nostra to "hook on to one of the biggest Italian businesses of the time, gaining illicit profit from extortion", the



Patients of the Hospital Calderon Guardia in San Jose are evacuated after the powerful earthquake struck. (AFP PHOTO)

In San Jose, some buildings and schools were evacuated. Many areas of the capital also lost power and cellular phone service for a brief period.

Thousands of people abandoned buildings on San Jose's downtown Paseo Colon, and gathered outside for at least an hour as a precaution.

Small landslides were reported on the highway that links the capital to the Pacific coast, but none was large enough to block vehicles.

The quake also was felt strongly in neighboring Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador.

In San Salvador, civil protection agency spokeswoman Glenda Duran told AFP that first responders had been put on alert.

Panama's director for civil protection, Arturo Alvarado, told CNN that the quake was felt most strongly in a border region with Costa Rica.

ruling said, referring to Berlusconi's then-expanding business empire.

Italy's highest appeal court then said that Berlusconi had paid large amounts of money to the Sicilian mafia family in the 1970s so he would not be physically attacked.

A court document described him as "a victim who acted out of necessity" and said he "paid large amounts of money for his security and that of his family".

During the appeal trial in December 2009, mafia turn-

coat Gaspare Spatuzza had accused Dell'Utri of having acted as a middle man between the Cosa Nostra and the political world.

Palermo court magistrates questioned Berlusconi in a police barracks of the Italian capital.

In February, a court in Milan threw out bribery charges against Berlusconi under the statute of limitations after a five-year trial, in another judicial victory for the former prime minister.



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Nigeria navy retakes control of hijacked oil tanker

LAGOS (AFP) - Nigeria's navy yesterday retook control of a Singapore-owned tanker carrying a fuel cargo that had been hijacked near Lagos, and its crew of 23 Indian nationals was unharmed, the company said.

The attack was the third in just over two weeks in the Gulf of Guinea and the latest in a rash of such incidents in recent

months, with previous hijackings leading to the theft of fuel cargo followed by the release of the crew and ships.

Details were still emerging of the attack but the crew were said to have taken refuge in a safe room. The gasoline-laden vessel was being escorted to the port of Nigeria's economic capital yesterday afternoon.

Wanted Kadhafi spy chief extradited to Libya

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Abdullah al-Senussi, dead Libyan dictator Moamer Kadhafi's former spy chief wanted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, was extradited to his home country yesterday.

The fugitive's extradition from Mauritania, where he was arrested in March as he tried to enter the country from Morocco using a Malian passport under a different name, was first announced by Mauritanian state television.

In Tripoli, deputy prosecutor general Taha Baara confirmed to AFP that Senussi was back in the country.

Yesterday's move comes after Libya said Kadhafi's son Seif al-Islam will go on trial this month in the town of Zintan, despite an ICC warrant against him also for arrest on charges of crimes against humanity.

Activists have raised concerns that Seif, 40, could face the death penalty if tried in Libya. Seif's lawyers said on July 31 he wants to be put on trial in The Hague for justice to be served.

The ICC says Senussi, the former head of military intelligence in Libya, played a "crucial" role in attempting to crush the popular revolt that eventually ousted the Kadhafi



Abdullah al-Senussi

regime late last year.

In the arrest warrant issued in June 2011, the ICC said Senussi was an "indirect perpetrator of crimes against humanity, of murder and persecution based on political grounds" in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi, cradle of the revolt.

Yesterday the ICC told AFP: "We have not received official information on the transfer" of Senussi.

"Libyan authorities have an obligation to surrender Abdullah al-Senussi to the ICC. Abdullah al-Senussi is wanted by the ICC on the basis of an arrest warrant issued by ICC Pre-Trial Chamber for alleged crimes against humanity (murder and persecution) on 27 June 2011," the court said.

Strikers threaten to make S.African mine 'ungovernable'

MARIKANA (AFP) - Thousands of defiant workers marched yesterday on South Africa's crippled Lonmin mine, refusing to end a deadly strike and threatening to make the platinum giant's mine "ungovernable."

Armoured police trucks and two police helicopters kept watch as around 3,000 miners, carrying sticks and chanting, marched to a shaft owned by the world's number three platinum producer where a wildcat action is in its fourth week.

"We told them if they don't close the mine shafts we will make them ungovernable," a worker leader told strikers after the group had re-gathered

near where police gunned down 34 people last month.

"The management is trying to divide us and coaxing some of you to go to work. Remember people died as result of the struggle and at the end of the day your boss does not stay with you."

Earlier, marchers took to the streets to demand that the company bow to their wage demands. One placard stating "Lonmin must decide to give us money or close".

The show of defiance came as a fresh round of mediated talks kicked off to try to broker a breakthrough in the stalemate, as Lonmin warning that an indefinite strike will put

40,000 jobs at risk.

Mine manager Jan Thirion said worker representatives had threatened that "if we don't leave here at one o'clock (1100 GMT) they will come and burn down the shaft, burn down cars and kill us".

"We want to talk peace, they want to talk war," he told reporters after speaking to the representatives through a fence under high security.

But workers dispersed peacefully after their deadline passed, singing President Jacob "Zuma is a fool, we are ruled by stupid people" as they headed back to where police had opened fire on August 16, killing their colleagues.

UK lawmakers blast student visa system that 50,000 'abused'

LONDON (AFP) - British lawmakers condemned an "extraordinary" immigration policy that they say has allowed some 50,000 economic migrants to come to Britain by falsely posing as students.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) introduced new rules for overseas students in 2009 without ensuring that proper controls were in place, parliament's Public Accounts Committee said in a report.

As a result, the committee said, between 40,000 and 50,000 people from outside the European Economic Area abused the system in 2009 and came to work in Britain while pretending to study.

The new policy meant universities and colleges became responsible for testing whether students were likely to comply with their visa conditions, rather than the UKBA.

Controls such as spot-check interviews by border officers were done away with.

The UKBA has been forced to spend the past three years



Students takes part in a demonstration outside the Home Office in central London on September 5, 2012 following the British government's decision to strip London Metropolitan University of its right to sponsor visas for overseas students.

trying to clamp down on abuse of the system, Hodge said, but it was "unacceptably slow" to react.

The report comes a week after the UKBA stripped a London university of its right to sponsor visas for students from outside Europe.

Inspections found that students at London Metropolitan University did not have suffi-

ciently good English and that the university failed to check that they turned up for classes, Immigration Minister Damian Green said.

The London university announced it was launching legal action over the government's decision to revoke its right to sponsor visas, a move that threatens thousands of students with deportation.

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Health & Living**Berlin imposes conditions on religious circumcision**

BERLIN (AFP) - The city of Berlin on Wednesday imposed new legal conditions on parents who have their boys circumcised, as a former head of Germany's Jewish community blasted the national debate about the practice.

Following a recent court ruling saying the rite amounted to grievous bodily harm, Berlin's top justice official, Thomas Heilmann, said the new policy was intended to protect the rights of Jewish and Muslim parents and their children.

Heilmann said this freedom would be upheld, but only with certain provisos.

Both parents must give written permission after being informed of the risks of the procedure, and provide proof of the "religious motivation and religious necessity of the circumcision" before the child is old enough to take the decision himself.

Heilmann said this could come in the form of a written declaration from the parents or their religious congregation.

Thirdly, the practice must be carried out only by doctors according to a "medically professional standard" including a sterile environment, as little pain as possible and care to stop bleeding.

Heilmann said the location did not necessarily have to be a hospital.

Heilmann said Berlin had created the new legal framework at the request of doctors seeking clarity after the court ruling in the western city of Cologne published in June.

He said the rules would apply at least until the German parliament passes legislation on the issue, which is expected in the next few months.

The Berlin restrictions are largely in line with recommendations last month from a parliamentary ethics committee.

The medical director of the Jewish Hospital in Berlin, Kristof Graf, said he was "satisfied with the solution" put forward by Heilmann, noting that there had been no circumcisions performed at his facility since June.

Normally the hospital conducts 80 to 100 per year, Graf said.

Meanwhile Germany has turned into a patchwork quilt of regulations, with public prosecutors in the southwestern cities of Stuttgart and Karlsruhe saying they will hold off taking action against parents who have sons circumcised, at least until federal legislation is passed.

Diplomats admit that the ruling has proved "disastrous" for Germany's international image, particularly in light of its Nazi past, following uproar from religious and political

leaders in Israel as well as Muslim countries.

In a sharply worded newspaper column, the former head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Charlotte Knobloch, said the debate made her ask angrily whether the country still wanted a Jewish community.⁷⁹

About four million Muslims and more than 200,000 Jews live in Germany.

Australian doctor reprimanded over gay 'cure'

SYDNEY (AFP) - An Australian doctor has been severely reprimanded and banned from working as a general practitioner after prescribing a drug to a boy who came to him for help to "cure" his homosexuality.

A Health Care Complaints Commission committee found Mark Craddock guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct over his treatment of the 18-year-old at a 10-minute consultation at his home in early 2008.

Both men were at the time members of the Exclusive Brethren, a conservative Christian group whose members shun television, radio, and the Internet and do not vote.

In a letter of complaint to the commission, the patient

wrote that he came out as gay at the age of 18 and was informed by a church leader, "There's medication you can go on for these things."

The patient then consulted Craddock.

The commission argued that during the consultation the doctor did not provide appropriate medical management of the patient's needs by failing to physically examine him or take a medical history.

He also failed to refer him to a counsellor or psychologist.

Craddock instead prescribed cypostat, a drug used to treat prostate cancer and manage sexual deviation by reducing testosterone, in circumstances which were not clinically indicated, the commission alleged.

The committee found that Craddock, while well qualified and experienced, also failed to organise appropriate follow up with the patient.

Craddock, 75, admitted most of the particulars of the complaint



Personnel of the Health Minister of Dominican Republic fumigates between houses at the Santo Domingo's neighborhood La Barquita to fight dengue fever, on September 5, 2012.
AFP PHOTO

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Ford is again recalling its redesigned-for-2013 Escape. This time, it's due to an improperly installed engine component. The recall affects about 7,600 Escapes equipped with a 1.6-liter engine and built between Oct. 5, 2011, and Aug. 31, 2012. In some of these SUVs, a component called a cup plug was not installed properly, Ford spokeswoman Marcey Zwiebel said. A loose or dislodged plug would cause an immediate loss of engine coolant. If the glycol concentration in the coolant comes in contact with the hot engine components, it may catch fire. This is the third recall for the crossover since it went on sale in June. The Escape was recalled earlier this summer because of a fuel line leak and a problem with the floor mats.

Apple Denies Hackers Claim

Apple Inc. said it didn't provide a set of IDs tied to its devices to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, days after a hacking group claimed to have obtained the data from the computer of an FBI agent.

Many app developers have databases of UDIDs, which means an organization could obtain them without receiving them directly from Apple.

The hackers may have posted some legitimate users' device names and the unique identifier codes assigned to their iPhones, iPads and iPod Touches, according to Sean Sullivan, a security adviser at F-Secure Corp. who examined a data file that the hackers released. It isn't known whether the hackers really have the other information they claim to have redacted from the data file, including user names, mobile phone numbers and addresses.

Sci-Tech

Trawling is changing seafloor habitats: study

PARIS (AFP) - Bottom trawling is dramatically altering the ocean floor and harming habitats, similar to the way that farming has permanently changed the landscape, a study said on Wednesday.

Continental slopes, the gradients that connect the shoreline with the ocean floor, are being smoothed out in areas that are intensively bottom-trawled, the team said.

Bottom trawling entails dragging heavy nets and gear along the ocean floor to haul up fish species that feed near the sea bed.

But it leads to vast displacement of sediment and changes to the submarine landscape, the team said.

This disturbs complex ocean floor habitats, "potentially affecting species diversity" in a manner comparable with intensive agriculture, it said.

In the northwestern Mediterranean, where industrialised trawling has been tak-

ing place since the mid-1960s, the scientists found the practice displaced 5,400 tonnes of sediment in just 136 days they monitored.

"Trawled continental-slope environments are the underwater equivalent of a gullied hill slope of land, part of which has been transformed into crop fields that are ploughed regularly, thus replacing the natural contour-normal drainage pattern by levelled areas," they wrote.

And while farmers ploughed a few times per year, sea trawling can occur almost daily.

The paper argued that trawling be added to the list of Man's damaging ocean legacies along with such phenomena as sea-level rise and acidification.

Conservationists say a trawling ban will not just conserve fish stocks but give soft corals, sponges and other bottom-dwelling creatures a chance to recover.

Al-Jazeera says websites hacked

DOHA (AFP) - Al-Jazeera news network said on Wednesday a number of its websites had been hacked, and Internet users reported that pro-Syrian regime slogans were posted on the broadcaster's pages.

The main Arab satellite news channel said the host company of its websites came under a cyber attack which "caused readers wanting to access Al-Jazeera websites to be diverted to other pages not linked to us."

"The company is working on fixing the problem and has succeeded in restoring Al-Jazeera websites gradually, but completing the job will

take some time," a spokesman for the channel said in a statement.

Internet reports said that the websites of the Qatar-owned network appeared with a Syrian flag along with the word "Hack" and a message saying the piracy was in "response to the hostile position of the channel towards Syria, its people and government."

The message also cited Al-Jazeera's "spread of false news."

Al-Jazeera has openly backed most Arab Spring uprisings and is strongly criticised by the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad, which accuses it of pro-rebel bias.



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SPREAD THE NEWS

ACROSS

1. Beatnik's buddy
4. High dudgeon
7. "Nice doggie" accompaniment
10. Be beholden to
11. Poster subjects, often
13. Eddie's "Green Acres" costar
14. Zaire's colonizer: abbr.
15. Means of communication
17. Gascon's excess
19. In one's right mind
20. Bridges
22. Dateless fellow
25. Sounds from the bleachers
26. Tractable
29. Affirmative gesture
31. Supreme
32. Unrefined mineral
33. "Diving — the Wreck" (Adrienne Rich)
34. Japanese coin
35. "The Five Hundred — of Bartholomew Cubbins"
36. Capricorn's animal
37. Expunge
39. Pub offering
41. Dairy case bargain
44. Oversized

vase

45. Courier
49. Tyro reporter
52. Tell's canton
53. Pitcher Ryan
54. Monaco season
55. Steely —
56. Indian weight
57. Blushing

DOWN

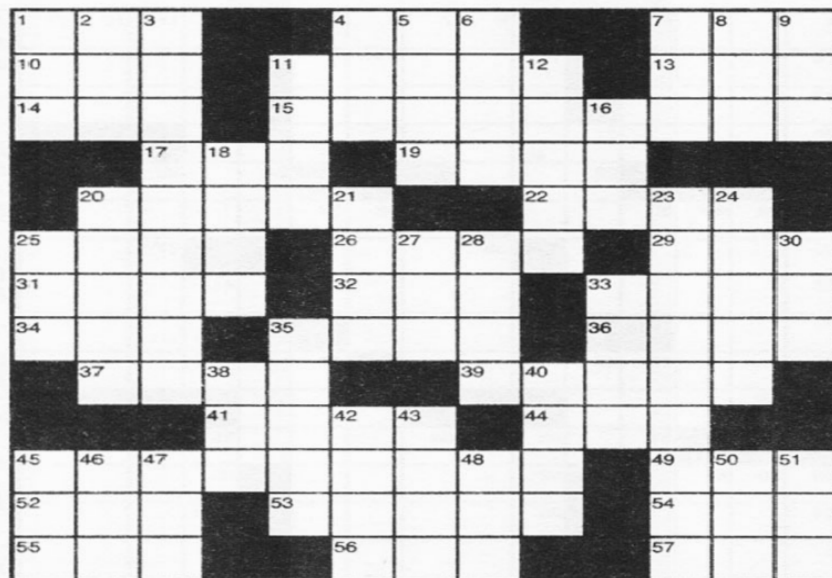
1. Corn-eater's throwaway
2. Stun
3. Bell ringer?
4. — Know ("Family Circus" gremlin)
5. Purloins
6. Grammy winner Fitzgerald
7. By means of
8. Gardner of

"Show Boat"

9. Highlands headwear
11. Religious portrait
12. Horse, e.g.
16. "I — no kick from champagne..."
18. Convulsive breath
20. Filled completely
21. Plato's porch
23. Don Pardo's job
24. Discovered
25. Photographer Man
27. — Nouveau
28. Confusion
30. Polka —
33. Helicopter pioneer Sikorsky

35. Artist Frankenthaler

38. — Banos, California
40. Sour
42. Slaughter of baseball
43. Eye amorously
45. Disgraced person's name
46. Important time in history
47. Tell a lie, e.g.
48. — candy (pleasant pop music)
50. Great Basin tribe
51. Nails, for a fakir



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Telephone
Numbers

HOSPITAL

Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel. 5274000

EMERGENCY

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POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

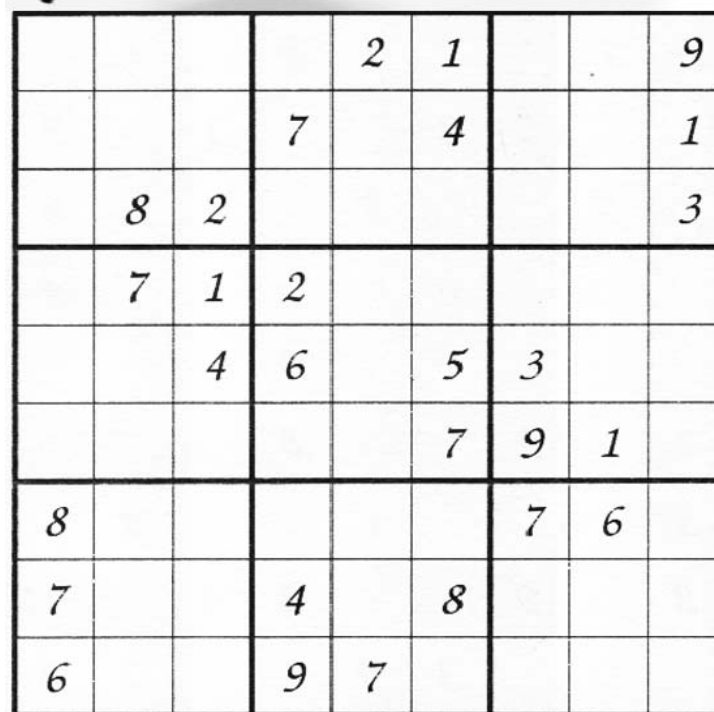
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8	5	1	2	6	5	7	9	
5	6	2	8	9	4	1	7	
4	9	7	5	1	6	2	8	
2	1	6	4	7	8	9	5	
7	8	5	1	9	4	6	2	
9	4	5	6	8	2	1	7	
1	7	9	6	5	2	8	1	
1	2	8	4	7	9	5	6	
6	5	9	1	2	8	7	4	

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg won't sell shares for one year

SAN FRANCISCO -- With his company's shares sinking to record lows and concerns about its business growing by the day, Facebook Inc. Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg is finally breaking his silence.

In a move that analysts said was intended to reassure investors about the young company's prospects, Facebook said in a regulatory filing Tuesday that Zuckerberg would not sell his Facebook shares for at least one year. In addition, the reclusive Facebook founder will sit down next week for a

rare onstage interview at a technology conference in San Francisco, his first public appearance since his company's disastrous stock market debut.

Investors have been clamoring to hear Zuckerberg's take on his company's challenges and the stock's collapse, yet he has stayed out of the public eye, even amid calls for his resignation.

Facebook recently dispatched Chief Financial Officer David Ebersman to meet with investment banks. But analysts say the time has come to

hear from Zuckerberg.

"If you want to be CEO, you have got to be the CEO," Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter said. "You have to be in front of people. You have to be accountable."

Facebook's market value has been on a downward spiral since the initial public stock offering in May as doubts about how much the Menlo Park, Calif., company is really worth have intensified.

The shares hit a record low Tuesday, falling 33 cents, or 1.8%, to \$17.73, less than half their IPO price of \$38. They regained ground in after-hours trading when Facebook said it would not sell stock to cover a nearly \$2-billion tax bill for stock-based compensation and it would allow some employees to cash in their stock early.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	D	D	S	T	A	P	S	A	P	S
L	O	O	N	H	I	E	E	L	I	A
B	L	U	E	B	E	R	R	H	I	L
S	T	R	E	E	T	E	R	T	E	
				L	A	U	R	A		
E	S	S	E		P	O	R	T	I	C
T	H	E	B	L	U	E	K	N	I	G
H	E	P	B	U	R	N		P	O	E
				I	N	D	U	S		
S	A	N	G		S	T	A	L	I	N
B	L	U	E	I	N	T	H	E	F	A
I	O	N	S	I	R	E	A	C	E	S
B	E	T	S	P	A	R	R	E	S	T



RUSSIAN FEDERATION, Vladivostok : Volunteers walk through a garden in front of the media center of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Vladivostok on September 5, 2012. Russia, which hosts its first annual APEC summit this week, is seeking to assert its presence in the fast-growing region during troubled European economic times. APEC leaders' summit in Russia's far eastern port city of Vladivostok will take place on September 8 and 9. (AFP PHOTO)

Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 09/05/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.78	1.80	1.82
Britain	GBP	2.77	2.82	2.88
Switzerland	CHF	186.28	187.00	187.80
Netherlands	EUR	221.99	224.02	226.27
Sweden	SEK	25.55	26.27	27.07
Denmark	DKK	29.10	29.82	30.62
Norway	NOK	29.69	30.41	31.21
Japan	JPY	224.99	227.04	229.32

(per 10,000)

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Finance

S.Africa unveils new Mandela bank notes



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - South Africa's central bank yesterday unveiled a new series of bank notes featuring the face of anti-apartheid hero Nelson Mandela which should be in use by year-end.

The five notes will show a smiling Mandela on the front and South Africa's big five animals -- lion, leopard, rhino, buffalo and elephant -- on the back set amid Bushmen paintings and locally used traditional patterns.

"We are pleased to issue this new series of banknotes which reflects South Africa's pride as a nation and pays tribute to a much-loved world icon," said Reserve Bank Governor Gill Marcus.

The notes are the latest monument to the 94-year-old Nobel Peace Prize-winner, known as one of the world's greatest statesmen after becoming president after 27 years in an apartheid jail.



SYDNEY : AFP photo shows the building skyline of the central business district at Sydney's Darling Harbour on September 5, 2012. Australia's mining-powered economy grew a solid 0.6 percent in the three months to June and 3.7 percent from a year earlier, data showed on September 5, but was held back by China's slowdown and European woes.

Champagne drought threatens



REIMS (AFP) - First the bad news: there is going to be a lot less champagne to go round this year.

The good news: what there is could be outstanding.

After one of the worst spring growing seasons on record, producers of the world's most celebrated bubbly are bracing themselves for one of the smallest harvests in the last 20 years.

But thanks to a hot and sunny August, all the signs are that the chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier grapes that go into the king of sparkling wines will be packed full of flavour.

"The vines suffered every possible disaster up to the middle of the summer," admitted Champagne wine board (CIVC) spokesman Thibault Le Mailloux.

"We feared the worst but August turned things around and all the signs are that the harvest will be of exceptional quality."

Heavy rain, destructive hail storms and late frosts have made it a stressful year for champagne producers.

A cold and wet spring prevented a good flowering of the vines, reducing the number of grapes in each bunch and promoting the appearance of millerandage, a vine disease that leads to unevenly sized grapes which ripen at different rates.

That was followed by frosts in April and May which destroyed the equivalent of 2,900 hectares (7,165 acres) and hail storms in June and July which accounted for a further 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres) in an area where vines had already

been traumatised by attacks of two types of mildew.

"It is going to be an atypical harvest to say the least," added Le Mailloux. "It will certainly be one of the smallest of the last 20 years and it could be as much as 30 percent down on last year."

The CIVC has set maximum permitted yields at 11,000 kg per hectare across the region, which translates into a potential 220.5 million bottles, 12 percent or some 30 million bottles down on last year.

The fall in output may well suit the producers however as the economic climate cuts demands for a drink that is intimately associated with good times and celebrations.

In the first half of this year, champagne sales were down 6.6 percent on the same period in 2011, largely as a result of slumping domestic demand and lower orders from the rest of Europe. Sales to outside the European Union held up better with only a 0.8 percent contraction.

Mind your manners; Brussels to fine offensive language

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The people of the Belgian capital will have to mind their manners carefully from now on, with the city authorities ready to levy fines of up to 250 euros for insults traded on the streets.

"Any form of insult is from now on punishable, whether it be racist, homophobic or otherwise," a spokesman Tuesday quoted Socialist mayor Freddy Thielemans as saying.

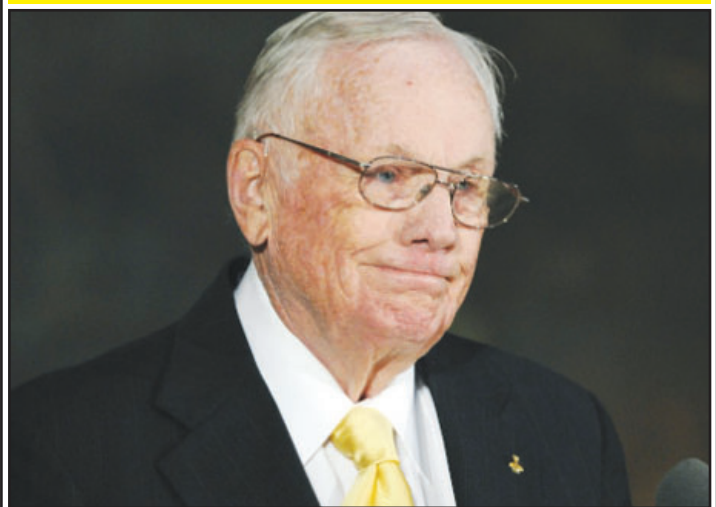
Brussels, home to the EU and many top international institutions, is known for its family-friendly and cultivated lifestyle but the mayor wants to crack down on the everyday unpleasantness found in any big city.

To do so, officials came to an agreement with judicial authorities to impose fines of between 75 and 250 euros (\$95-320) for insults, petty theft and rough jostling where no physical harm is caused.

The spokesman for the mayor said the courts up to now had been too busy to take up such cases and as a result many police "had little incentive to take any action over such incidents."

The issue was highlighted in a recent film by Belgian director Sofie Peeters who recorded in secret the everyday insults and exchanges she ran into on the streets of the city.

NASA to honor astronaut Armstrong September 13



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A memorial service for Neil Armstrong, the US astronaut who became the first human being to set foot on the moon, will be held in the US capital Washington on September 13, NASA said. NASA chief Charles Bolden, present and former astronauts and other dignitaries are expected to attend the ceremony at the Washington National Cathedral in honor of Armstrong, who died on August 25 at the age of 82. Armstrong strode into the history books on July 20, 1969 when he became the first person to walk on the moon, famously calling it "one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind." The Washington cathedral includes the famous stained glass Space Window, housing a moon rock brought back by Armstrong and fellow astronaut Buzz Aldrin from their Apollo 11 mission.

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NEW YORK (AFP) - French shoemaker Christian Louboutin can trademark his famous red soles, a US court ruled Wednesday, reversing a ruling that allowed rival Yves Saint Laurent to mark its own outsoles in scarlet. The battle in New York federal court featured two of the fashion world's heaviest hitters. Last year, a judge ruled that Louboutin, widely recognized for the use of red soles, could not stop competitors from doing the same thing. But the Second Circuit US Court of Appeals overturned the decision.

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The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early morning

"Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.

Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand



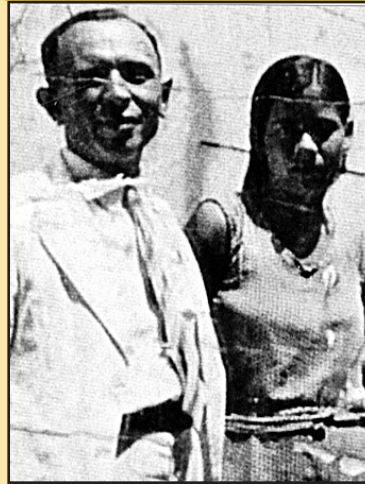
such table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly

blackjack tournament will keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly fa-

huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, deco-rative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jalme, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.



Unique, quality goods in all departments

mily operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very seriously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!

London Paralympics 2012



Zanardi triumphs amid multiple medallists



LONDON (AFP) - Former racing driver Alessandro Zanardi on Wednesday won Paralympic gold at a circuit where he once drove sports cars, as the showpiece "Battle of the Blade Runners" took shape on the track.

It was also a day for multiple medallists, as the most-decorated male Paralympian took gold again in his ninth Games and Australia got a new star in the pool.

The 45-year-old Zanardi's win in the individual H4 (hand-cycle) time-trial at Brands Hatch was a triumph for the Italian former Formula One driver, who was critically injured and had both legs amputated after a horror smash in 2001.

He battled back into motor-sport, even competing in a touring car race at the fabled southeast England circuit in a specially-adapted car with hand controls, before switching his efforts to hand-cycling.

And although he was travelling much slower than in his Formula One and Indy heyday -- his average speed was 38.652 kilometres (24.017 miles) per hour -- he described it as "a great accomplishment, one of the greatest" of his life.

"With an engine pushing me, I didn't realise it (the Brands Hatch circuit) was so hilly. It is very hard but if I had to design a course, this is what I would have done," he added.

"It is beautiful, hard, it suits my characteristics of an old man."

Zanardi's performance was a highlight of a day that also saw Britain's Sarah Storey win the women's individual C5 time-trial over 16km to give her a third gold after double success on the track and the 10th in her Games career.

Czech Republic rider Jiri Jezek also won his fourth gold in four Games after winning the men's C4 time-trial.

There were more medals for other multiple Paralympic medallists, including the most-

decorated male Paralympian, Jonas Jacobsson, of Sweden, who shot his way to the 17th gold of his stellar career at the Royal Artillery Barracks.

The 47-year-old has now won 30 medals of all colours since making his debut nine Games ago in Arnhem, the Netherlands, in 1980.



The Great Britain men's wheelchair basketball team produced their best performance of the Games so far to shut out Turkey 75-70 and reach the semi-final of the tournament, where they will face Canada, who defeated Spain 77-51

At the Olympic Stadium, meanwhile, Britain's world record holder Jonnie Peacock fired a warning shot to his 100m rivals, including South Africa's Oscar Pistorius, as the finalists were determined for the Games' showpiece sprint.

The 19-year-old, who lowered the world best to 10.85sec in June, clocked 11.08sec in his T44 heat for leg amputee runners, equalling the Paralympic record that has stood for eight years -- then warned he would run faster.

"It was a bad wind, a big wind: 1.6. I'll be a bit quicker in the final," he told reporters.

Defending champion Pistorius, making a return to the track for the first time since his sensational defeat in the 200m on Sunday and controversial comments about the fairness of his rivals' artificial prostheses, ran a season's best of 11.19sec.

Both men will be up against Beijing silver medallist Jerome Singleton, of the United States,

as well as Brazilian Alan Oliveira, who took Pistorius' 200m title in controversial fashion.

Elsewhere on the track, Tunisia's Abderrahim Zhiou clinched his second gold of the Games when he took the T12 800m for blind and visually impaired runners after winning the T13 1,500m.

Brazil's women, secured a clean sweep in the T11 100m, with Terezinha Guilhermina lowering her world best by three-hundredths of a second to 12.01sec.

At the Aquatics Centre In the pool, Australia's Matthew Cowdrey broke his own world record to take the S9 50m freestyle and surpass athlete Tim Sullivan's previous national Paralympic gold medal record of 10.

The 24-year-old Gold Coast



Jiri Jezek of the Czech Republic reacts to winning the men's individual C4 time trial at Brands Hatch



Ahmed Kelly of Australia puts on his prosthetic legs after competing in the Men's 100m Freestyle - S4 heats.



A view from beneath the pool - Viktor Kemeny of Slovakia in the Men's SB7 100m breaststroke heats



Team GB's David Weir celebrates after winning the gold medal in the men's 1500m T54 final

US Open : Djokovic into 14th successive Slam quarter-final



NEW YORK (AFP) - Defending champion Novak Djokovic reached his 14th successive Grand Slam quarter-final on Wednesday when Swiss 18th seed Stanislas Wawrinka was forced to retire from their US Open last-16 match.

Serb second seed Djokovic was 6-4, 6-1, 3-1 ahead when Wawrinka, who had already complained of feeling unwell at the end of the third game of the third set, called it quits.

Djokovic, who was leading 2-0 overnight when the match was halted because of rain, goes on to face either 2009 champion Juan Martin Del Potro, the Argentine seventh seed, or 2003 winner Andy Roddick for a place in the semi-finals.

Djokovic has reached his sixth successive US Open

quarter-final by dropping just 20 games in four rounds.

Wawrinka, who was bidding to reach the quarter-finals for the second time, having made the last eight in 2010, has now lost 19 matches in a row against top-10 players.

Djokovic's fellow Serb, eighth seed Janko Tipsarevic, fresh from a Twitter stir where he reignited the equal prize money row, reached his second successive US Open quarter-final.

Tipsarevic brushed past German 19th seed Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 and goes on to face Spanish fourth seed David Ferrer for a place in the semi-finals.

The 28-year-old, who led 5-2 in the first set overnight before his fourth-round match also fell victim to the heavy New York rain, enjoyed his best Grand Slam performance at the US Open in 2011 when he reached the last eight.

Roddick, 30, and playing his last match before retirement, was just a point ahead in the first set tie-break against Del Potro when play was halted overnight.

Del Potro -- whose New York triumph victory in 2009 was the only time in the last 30 majors that either Djokovic, Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal wasn't champion -- is trying to make the last eight for the first time since that win.

Roddick's 2003 victory in New York remains the last time an American man won a Grand Slam title.

On a bumper day of action at Flushing Meadows, top seed Federer was taking on Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych for a place in the semi-finals.

Federer, bidding to become the first six-time champion in 87 years and make a ninth straight semi-final in New York, will meet either British third seed Andy Murray or Marin Cilic, the 12th-seeded Croat, for a place in the final.

Federer beat Murray in the 2008 US Open final.

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Football: Van der Vaart-mania sweeps Hamburg



HAMBURG (AFP) - Dutch midfielder Rafael van der Vaart has admitted he is enjoying the attention surrounding his eagerly-anticipated return to help try and turn around Hamburg's ailing Bundesliga fortunes.

The 29-year-old is back in Hamburg after four years away playing for Real Madrid and Tottenham Hotspur. However, he agreed to return when Hamburg last week paid 13 million euros (US\$16.4m) for the 100-times capped Holland

star.

More than 1,000 Hamburg fans turned up to watch his first training session on Sunday, while 2,500 supporters came to watch Hamburg's 12-0 friendly win over sixth division side SC Schwarzenbek on Tuesday.

"I like the hype about me, now we can start really," he said while signing numerous autographs after scoring in the low-key friendly in Hamburg's suburbs.

"I am here to take responsibility.

"We have many players who can play football really well.

"I hope that my return will create a little confidence."

With international matches taking place this weekend, Van der Vaart's return to the Bundesliga has been delayed until Sunday September 16 at Eintracht Frankfurt, who are second in the German league.

"Rafael brings us positive energy," said Hamburg coach Torsten Fink, who is under pressure having lost his opening two Bundesliga games.

"Our game will be much more creative with him.

"And some of the players will grow accordingly."

With Hamburg 15th in the 18-strong Bundesliga table -- the same position they finished last season -- Germany coach Joachim Loew has warned against Hamburg basing their season around the Dutchman.

"I believe that Rafael can help decisively, his transfer to Hamburg will create a spirit of optimism," Loew told Germany's Sky Sports News.

"They shouldn't make the mistake in Hamburg of putting all their focus on Van der Vaart. The whole team has to improve."



Alexei Ramirez #10 of the Chicago White Sox attempts to turn a double play as Joe Mauer #7 of the Minnesota Twins slides into second base. Alex Rios homered twice and drove in a career-high six runs to lead the Chicago White Sox to a 6-2 win over the Minnesota Twins yesterday. Rios hit a grand slam in the first inning and a two-run shot in the sixth to help extend Chicago's lead in the AL Central to 1 1/2 games over Detroit.

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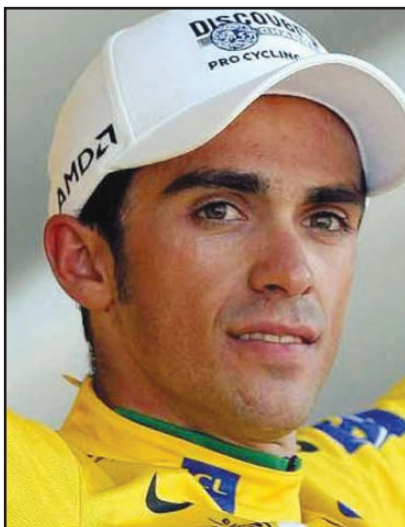
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THE BEST OF ITALY IN ARUBA

Contador takes lead



FUENTE DE (AFP) - Alberto Contador took a huge step to making a fairytale return to cycling after a two year doping ban when he took the overall lead of the Tour of Spain on Wednesday after winning the 17th stage here.

The 29-year-old Spaniard crossed the finish line of the 187-kilometre (116-mile) race from Santander to Fuente De, six seconds ahead of fellow Spaniard Alejandro Valverde of Movistar. Colombian Sergio Henao of Sky finished third.

"I am not in my best moment but I had a really strong desire to win. Second place is fine but I was always going to try to win," the Saxo Bank rider told public television TVE at the end of the race.

Contador had started the mountainous stage through northern Spain 28 seconds behind compatriot Joaquim "Pu-

rito" Rodriguez in the overall standings for the tour.

But the strong performance catapulted him into first place in the Vuelta's overall standings, one minute and 52 seconds ahead of Valverde.

Rodriguez's hopes of claiming his first major Tour win at the age of 33 look like they are over as he slumped to third place overall, two minutes and 28 seconds behind Contador.

The Spaniard had entertained great hopes of making up for his heartbreak in this year's Tour of Italy when he led going into the final stage only to finish second overall after Canadian Ryder Hesjedal overhauled his advantage in the time-trial.

Contador has kept his silence for months since the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport handed down a two-year ban to the two-time Tour de France winner on February 6.

Contador has always insisted that the trace of banned substance clenbuterol detected in his urine at the 2010 Tour de France came from a contaminated steak he ate on the eve of the test.

Contador -- who was stripped of the third Tour de France win in 2010 along with his Tour of Italy title of 2011 -- is hoping this tour can help him turn a new page.



The Morning News' Yanis Garcia an avid surfer last Saturday went out to catch some waves...

shots taken by Max Dedekind show some of the action.